

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Joins National Effort to Save Teens

National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) Kicks off National Save a Teen Month

(Sacramento) - The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has joined the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) in its effort to get communities across the country to participate in Operation Save a Teen during the month of May, 2008.

Underage drinking in the United States is reaching a critical level. Statistics show that in 2005, about 10.8 million persons aged 12-20 (28% of the age group) reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Nearly 7.2 million (18.8%) were binge drinkers, and 2.3 million (6%) were heavy drinkers.¹ Data provided by the Monitoring the Future survey indicate that three out of every four students have consumed alcohol beyond just a few sips, two fifths of students have consumed alcohol by the 8th grade and more than half (58%) of the 12th graders report having been drunk at least once in their life. From the same survey, one fifth of the 8th grade students report having been drunk at least once in their life.²

In the month of May, NLLEA officers will focus on underage drinking enforcement with a goal to save one teen at a time, one incident at a time and one day or night at a time. NLLEA President, Stacy Drakeford says "In each of the 50 United States, it is illegal for persons under the age of 21 to use alcohol and it is illegal for persons to provide or furnish alcohol to persons under the age of 21. We are committed to enforcing the law, creating safer communities and saving the lives of teens in our community."

222 persons under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes in California during 2006. ABC Director Steve Hardy says ABC investigators will be working throughout California to enforce the law and hopefully prevent alcohol-related tragedies. "May is a month when families should be celebrating landmark events such as high school and college graduations and a wide variety of outdoor community events," Hardy said. "Everyone needs to work together to keep those events from being marred by alcohol-related tragedies."

For more information about this effort and about the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association, go to the website at www.nllea.org. If your agency is not a member of the NLLEA but would like to participate in this national effort, please contact Elizabeth Mattfeld, Executive Director at 240-483-8922, or at bmattfeld@nllea.org.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2006). *Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-30, DHHS Publication No. SMA 06-4194). Rockville, MD.

2 Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., Bachman, J.G., & Schulenberg, J.E. (2006). *Monitoring the Future national results on adolescent drug use: Overview of key findings, 2005*. (NIH Publication No. 06-5882). Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.